

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 62

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to pediatric and adolescents  
AIDS.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 1995

Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MANTON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. STUDDS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. YATES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to  
pediatric and adolescents AIDS.

Whereas more than 743,000 individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (commonly known as AIDS) and 360,000 have died from the disease;

Whereas the Public Health Service has estimated that there are currently between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 persons in the United States infected with AIDS;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 5,734 cases of pediatric AIDS and 1,768 cases of adolescent AIDS as of June 1994;

Whereas, because 1 in 5 of all reported AIDS cases is diagnosed in the 20 to 29-year-old age group and the median incubation period between human immuno deficiency virus (HIV) infection and AIDS diagnosis is nearly 10 years, most of those people in their twenties who are diagnosed with AIDS were adolescents when they became infected;

Whereas AIDS was the seventh leading cause of death among children aged 1 to 4 in 1991 and if the incidence of AIDS continues to increase, within the next 10 years AIDS may become the fifth leading cause of death among children of all ages in the United States;

Whereas AIDS is now the leading cause of death in the United States among persons 25 to 44;

Whereas by the end of 1995, maternal deaths caused by the HIV/AIDS epidemic will have orphaned an estimated 24,600 children (under age 13) and 21,000 adolescents (aged 13 to 17) in the United States and unless the course of the epidemic changes dramatically, by the year 2000 the overall number of motherless children and adolescents will exceed 80,000;

Whereas in 1994 reported AIDS cases among women continued to grow at a faster rate than among men, and more than half the number of women's cases were the result of heterosexual transmission, not intravenous drug use;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 110,000 women in the United States are infected with HIV and an estimated 7,000 are

expected to give birth to children each year, and approximately 1,500 to 2,000 of these children will be infected with HIV;

Whereas more than 88 percent of children with AIDS have a parent with, or at risk for, HIV infection;

Whereas 24 percent of reported pediatric AIDS cases in the United States have occurred in New York City, and the South Bronx has the highest HIV seroprevalence rate among newborns in the United States;

Whereas Philadelphia ranks among American cities most impacted by reported AIDS cases among children age 0 to 13, and these children belong to an estimated 1,400 HIV affected families; and

Whereas ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by AIDS, with 74 percent of women with AIDS and 79 percentum of children with AIDS being African-American or Hispanic: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2   *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3            (1) it is important that the people of the United  
4        States diligently seek preventative measures and bet-  
5        ter solutions to care for women and youth, including  
6        helping them gain access to HIV services and treat-  
7        ment and other sexually transmitted disease clinical  
8        therapies;

9            (2) early intervention and education resources  
10       must be made available to all citizens, especially  
11       youth and other high-risk groups, to make them

1 more aware of AIDS and the risks associated with  
2 engaging in unprotected sexual activity or substance  
3 abuse;

4 (3) the Health Care Financing Administration  
5 and the Public Health Service should work with ap-  
6 propriate State officials to help design optimal care  
7 packages needed for children, youth, and families  
8 with AIDS or HIV infection especially as health care  
9 system reforms are undertaken; and

10 (4) States and localities should recognize rel-  
11 atives, extended family members, and other  
12 nonbiological relatives as an appropriate source of  
13 foster care for children with AIDS whose parents  
14 can no longer care for them, subject to the same re-  
15 view and afforded the same benefits as other foster  
16 parents.

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